

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, JA
SUBJECT: FISHERY ALLOCATIONS AND TRADE BARRIERS

REF: STATE 089168

1. GOJ OFFICIALS AND JAPAN FISHING INDUSTRY CONTINUE TO SHOW GREAT CONCERN ON INTENT OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO REDUCE ALLOCATION TO THOSE COUNTRIES MAINTAINING TRADE BARRIERS IN FISHERIES. MINISTER NAKAGAWA (MAF) DISCUSSED THIS WITH US AT SOCIAL GATHERING LAST FRIDAY AND FISHATT WILL RECEIVE PETITION LATER THIS WEEK FROM TRAWLING INDUSTRY WHICH WILL ASK FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION ON THIS ISSUE.

2. JAPAN'S POSITION, IN REGARD TO POLLOCK PARTICULARLY, IS THAT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIES SUCH AS POLLOCK, SARDINE AND MACKERAL ARE AIMED AT PROTECTING JAPANESE COASTAL FISHERMEN. IMPORT QUOTAS ARE OF TWO TYPES: QUOTA SPECIFIC IN AMOUNT TO ROK AND USSR WHO HAVE CAPABILITY OF DUMPING LARGE QUANTITIES OF COASTAL PELAGIC FISH ON MARKET CAUSING SEVERE FLUCTUATIONS IN PRICES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUOTA LIMITED IN DOLLAR VALUE FOR 81 ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE U.S. THIS WAS \$20 MILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR FOR ALL 81 COUNTRIES. JAPAN MAINTAINS THAT THIS IS ADEQUATE BECAUSE \$15 MILLION OF THIS QUOTA WAS UNUSED. QUOTA, HOWEVER, IS REPRESSIVE TO TRADE BECAUSE OF WAY IT IS ADMINISTERED. DOLLAR CEILING AMOUNT IS DIVIDING OVER 100 TRADING AND FISHING COMPANIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH HISTORICAL

RECORD OF COMPANIES ON IMPORTS OF FISH PRODUCTS. IN PRACTICE UNDER THIS SYSTEM, NO ONE COMPANY CAN IMPORT LARGE AMOUNTS IN DOLLAR VALUE. FURTHERMORE, AMOUNT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ANNUALLY BY GOJ; THUS, UNDER PRESENT SYSTEM IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR U.S. COMPANY TO OBTAIN ANY LONG TERM COMMITMENT. THIS CLEARLY IS DETRIMENTAL TO ANY SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT BY U.S. COMPANY TO DEVELOP U.S. FISHERIES.

3. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, GOJ MAY BE WILLING TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO ACCOMODATE USG. IT MAINTAINS IT NEEDS TO KEEP 81 COUNTRY QUOTA SYSTEM TO PREVENT ROK AND USSR FROM DUMPING ON JAPAN THROUGH 3RD COUNTRIES, BUT IS WILLING TO MAKE SOME KIND OF OVERTURE TO USG TO RELAX QUOTA. FISHATT WILL BE DISCUSSING ISSUE FURTHER LATER THIS WEEK WITH FISHERY AGENCY OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE HOW FAR JAPAN MIGHT GO IN ACCOMODATING U.S. INTERESTS.

4. JAPAN IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF RELAXING QUOTA SYSTEM IN SOME WAY TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. WOULD BE SATISFACTORY, OR IF U.S. INTENT IS TO WORK TOWARD ABOLISHMENT OF ALL FISHERY TRADE BARRIERS. FISHERY AGENCY OFFICIALS NOTE LATTER WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS THEY WOULD THEN ENCOUNTER WITH ROK AND USSR. PLEASE ADVISE. MANSFIELD

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